

Metropolitan Chicago Region Overview of the Economy



This report is issued by The Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago (WBMC) and the Metro Economic Growth Alliance of Chicago (MEGA) for the purpose of sharing economic and workforce development information for the metropolitan Chicago region. This report provides the most recent available economic indicator data for the metropolitan Chicago region.¹

For the purposes of this report, the metropolitan Chicago region includes the City of Chicago and the following counties: [Cook](#), [DeKalb](#), [DuPage](#), [Grundy](#), [Kane](#), [Kankakee](#), [Kendall](#), [Lake](#), [Livingston](#), [McHenry](#), and [Will](#). The WBMC is a regional consortium of Workforce Boards that have collaborated for the past eight years on initiatives that address workforce and economic development issues. The Workforce Boards oversee development of a workforce system that provides individuals with education and training required for career opportunities in high demand occupations and provides employers with access to a skilled, competitive workforce. The MEGA is a partnership of lead economic organizations from throughout the metropolitan Chicago region that are committed to growing the regional economy through coordinated, effective business development. Both organizations recognize that the quality of its workforce is intrinsically linked to the strength of its economy.

The Region's Jobs

As of March 2010, the metropolitan Chicago region had 5,091,687 jobs, as compared to 5,200,472 for the quarter ending December 2009 – a decrease of 108,785 jobs. Table 1 reflects the geographical distribution of those jobs within the region. All metropolitan Chicago counties lost jobs with the exception of Livingston which posted a gain of 359 jobs. Counties with the largest decrease in numbers included: Cook (-66,893), DuPage (16,675), Lake (-15,202), and Will (-4,171). In terms the proportion of jobs lost, Lake (-3.4%), DeKalb (-2.6%), DuPage (-2.3%), and Cook (-2.1%) represent the largest proportional decreases.

Metropolitan Chicago Region
Geographic Distribution of Jobs
Quarters Ending December 2009 and March 2010
Table 1

County	Jobs December 2009	Jobs March 2010	Change from December to March 2010	% Change
Cook	3,224,976	3,158,083	-66,893	-2.1%
DeKalb	53,635	52,220	-1,415	-2.6%
DuPage	712,061	695,386	-16,675	-2.3%
Grundy	22,994	22,526	-468	-2.0%
Kane	259,984	258,314	-1,670	-0.6%
Kankakee	54,340	54,224	-116	-0.2%
Kendall	33,067	32,660	-407	-1.2%
Lake	440,816	425,614	-15,202	-3.4%
Livingston	20,331	20,690	359	1.8%
McHenry	124,043	121,916	-2,127	-1.7%
Will	254,225	250,054	-4,171	-1.6%
Total	5,200,472	5,091,687	-108,785	-2.1%

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 1st Quarter & 2nd Quarter 2010

¹Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI) complete employment data sets utilized for this report include: 2009 2nd quarter data, period ending March 2009; 2010 1st quarter data, period ending December 2009 and 2010 2nd quarter data, period ending March 2010. EMSI estimates are based on a methodology that combines employment information from the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) with self-employment numbers and EMSI-derived estimates for unsuppressed data. More information related to EMSI data sources and methodologies for compiling projections can be found at <http://workforceboardsmetrochicago.com/publications/>.

A comparison of March 2009 with March 2010 jobs data indicates that the region gained 46,399 (.9%) jobs over the 12 months (Table 2). Counties with the largest increase of jobs include: Cook (37,201), Will (5,968), Kane (4,595) and Lake (1,084). In terms of proportional job gains, counties with the largest increase include: Grundy (3.4%), Kendall (2.7%), Will (2.5%), and Kane (1.8%). Counties that posted a decrease in jobs over the 12 month period ending March 2010 include: DuPage (-2,950), Kankakee (-1,414), and Livingston (-289).

Metropolitan Chicago Region Geographic Distribution of Jobs March 2009 and March 2010 Table 2				
County	Jobs March 2009	Jobs March 2010	Change from 2009 to 2010	% Change
Cook	3,120,882	3,158,083	37,201	1.2%
DeKalb	51,616	52,220	604	1.2%
DuPage	698,336	695,386	-2,950	-0.4%
Grundy	21,787	22,526	739	3.4%
Kane	253,719	258,314	4,595	1.8%
Kankakee	55,638	54,224	-1,414	-2.5%
Kendall	31,803	32,660	857	2.7%
Lake	424,530	425,614	1,084	0.3%
Livingston	20,979	20,690	-289	-1.4%
McHenry	121,912	121,916	4	0.0%
Will	244,086	250,054	5,968	2.5%
Total	5,045,288	5,091,687	46,399	.9%

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 1st Quarter 2009 & 1st Quarter 2010

Table 3 provides regional jobs data by industry for quarters ending December 2009 and March 2010. Within the region, manufacturing (6,288) and administrative and waste services (9,444) posted job gains while most of the other sectors lost jobs. Industries with the largest decrease in jobs included: professional and technical services (-33,789), construction (-18,643), healthcare and social assistance (-14,403), and accommodation and food services (-11,376).

Metropolitan Chicago Region Jobs by Industry Table 3					
Description	December 2009		March 2010		Change from December to March
	Jobs	% Regional Jobs	Jobs	% Regional Jobs	
Accommodation and Food Services	328,045	6.3%	316,669	6.2%	-11,376
Administrative and Waste Services	367,250	7.1%	376,694	7.4%	9,444
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11,462	<1.0%	11,470	<1.0%	8
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	111,865	2.2%	109,705	2.2%	-2,160
Construction	248,851	4.8%	230,208	4.5%	-18,643
Educational Services	158,776	3.1%	156,474	3.1%	-2,302
Finance and insurance	348,443	6.7%	343,774	6.8%	-4,669
Government	546,882	10.5%	537,901	10.6%	-8,981
Healthcare and Social Assistance	575,307	11.1%	560,904	11.0%	-14,403
Information	97,374	1.9%	95,692	1.9%	-1,682
Management of Companies and Enterprises	75,030	1.4%	75,963	1.5%	933
Manufacturing	383,133	7.4%	389,421	7.6%	6,288
Mining	1,901	<1.0%	1,896	<1.0%	-5
Other Services, except Public Administration	264,720	5.1%	260,158	5.1%	-4,562
Professional and Technical Services	455,560	8.8%	421,771	8.3%	-33,789
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	240,993	4.6%	234,259	4.6%	-6,734
Retail Trade	480,255	9.2%	478,491	9.4%	-1,764
Transportation and Warehousing	249,427	4.8%	242,215	4.8%	-7,212
Utilities	11,878	<1.0%	11,920	<1.0%	42
Wholesale Trade	243,320	4.7%	236,102	4.6%	-7,218
Total	5,200,472	100%	5,091,687	100%	-108,785

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 1st and 2nd Quarter 2010

Projected Job Growth

Tables 4 and 5 reflect the anticipated rates of job growth over the next five and ten year periods. The region's anticipated growth rates of 9% through 2015 and 15% through 2020 are slightly higher than both the State and national rates of 8% (2015) and 13% (2020). The region is expected to gain 452,738 jobs over the next five years and a total of 785,838 over the next ten years. The region's new jobs represent almost 80% of the State's projected job growth through 2015 and 82% of the State's projected growth through 2020.

Projected Job Growth 2010-2020 Table 4							
Description	2010 Jobs	2015 Jobs	Change	% Change	2020 Jobs	Change	% Change
Regional Total	5,091,687	5,544,425	452,738	9%	5,877,525	785,838	15%
State Total	7,250,993	7,819,102	568,109	8%	8,207,297	956,304	13%
National Total	173,111,627	187,547,430	14,435,803	8%	195,421,300	22,309,673	13%

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 2nd Quarter 2010

In looking at projected job growth by industry (Table 5), healthcare and social assistance (100,420 through 2015; 177,663 through 2020) is expected to have the largest increase in jobs followed by professional and technical services (89,294 through 2015; 162,339 through 2020). In looking at job loss, manufacturing is projected to lose the largest number of jobs (-38,295 through 2015; -45,395 through 2020) followed by wholesale trade (-1,286 through 2015; -3,759 through 2020).

Metropolitan Chicago Region Job Growth by Industry Table 5							
Description	2010 Jobs	2015 Jobs	Change	% Change	2020 Jobs	Change	% Change
Accommodation and Food Services	316,669	335,827	19,158	6%	338,787	22,118	7%
Administrative and Waste Services	376,694	443,010	66,316	18%	503,286	126,592	34%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11,470	10,269	-1,201	-10%	9,773	-1,697	-15%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	109,705	125,387	15,682	14%	136,382	26,677	24%
Construction	230,208	257,542	27,334	12%	267,264	37,056	16%
Educational Services	156,474	183,592	27,118	17%	203,117	46,643	30%
Finance and insurance	343,774	382,076	38,302	11%	406,451	62,677	18%
Government	537,901	554,411	16,510	3%	560,095	22,194	4%
Healthcare and Social Assistance	560,904	661,324	100,420	18%	738,663	177,759	32%
Information	95,692	94,923	-769	-1%	97,900	2,208	2%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	75,963	77,909	1,945	3%	76,059	96	0%
Manufacturing	389,421	351,126	-38,295	-10%	344,026	-45,395	-12%
Mining	1,896	2,030	137	7%	2,155	261	14%
Other Services, except Public Administration	260,158	282,157	21,999	8%	298,760	38,602	15%
Professional and Technical Services	421,771	511,065	89,294	21%	584,110	162,339	38%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	234,259	284,089	49,830	21%	309,327	75,068	32%
Retail Trade	478,491	482,302	3,811	1%	485,884	7,393	2%
Transportation and Warehousing	242,215	259,708	17,493	7%	271,824	29,609	12%
Utilities	11,920	10,862	-1,058	-9%	11,319	-601	-5%
Wholesale Trade	236,102	234,816	-1,286	-1%	232,343	-3,759	-2%
Total	5,091,687	5,544,425	452,740	9%	5,877,525	785,840	15%

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 2nd Quarter 2010



Unemployment Summary

Unemployment rates for the region as well as individual counties are reflected in Table 6. There was no change in the region's unemployment rate from June to July (10.6%). For the month of July 2010, Kankakee had the highest rate of unemployment (13.5%) followed by Grundy (12.9%) and Will and Cook (both at 10.8%). DuPage had the lowest unemployment rate at 8.9%. Counties with the largest increase in unemployment from July 2009 to July 2010 were: Kankakee (+1.7) and Lake (+1.1).

Table 7 reflects regional unemployment data by industry for the months of May 2010 and December 2009. The construction industry has the highest rate of unemployment (23%) for the month of May followed by manufacturing (13.7%) and accommodations and food services (12.2%). In terms of unemployment, manufacturing led with 53,255 individuals out of work followed by construction with 52,915 and retail trade with 50,670.

Metropolitan Chicago Region Unemployment Rates Table 6					
County	July 2010	June 2010	July 2009	Change over the Month	Change over the Year
Cook	10.8%	10.9%	11.1%	-0.1	-0.3
DeKalb	10.4%	10.3%	10.4%	0.1	0.0
DuPage	8.9%	9.0%	9.2%	-0.1	-0.3
Grundy	12.9%	12.9%	12.8%	0.0	0.1
Kane	10.5%	10.8%	11.0%	-0.3	-0.5
Kankakee	13.5%	12.7%	11.8%	0.8	1.7
Kendall	10.7%	10.7%	11.4%	0.0	-0.7
Lake	10.7%	10.3%	9.6%	0.4	1.1
Livingston	10.5%	10.2%	10.8%	0.3	-0.3
McHenry	9.6%	9.8%	10.1%	-0.2	-0.5
Will	10.8%	11.0%	10.8%	-0.2	0.0
Region	10.6%	10.6%	10.7%	0.0	-0.1

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Metropolitan Chicago Region Unemployment by Industry Table 7								
Description	May 2010					December 2009		
	Regional			State %	National %	Regional		
	# Jobs	# Unemployed	% Total Jobs			# Jobs	# Unemployed	% Total Jobs
Accommodation and Food Services	316,669	38,551	12.2%	12.8%	11.2%	321,202	40,593	12.6%
Administrative and Waste Services	376,694	35,437	9.4%	9.5%	9.4%	348,892	47,430	13.6%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11,470	327	2.9%	1.8%	5.3%	11,768	306	2.6%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	109,705	6,955	6.3%	6.5%	7.1%	107,378	9,022	8.4%
Construction	230,208	52,915	23.0%	23.2%	17.0%	240,426	60,608	25.2%
Educational Services	156,474	15,804	10.1%	9.9%	9.6%	151,642	9,146	6.0%
Finance and Insurance	343,774	21,358	6.2%	6.3%	5.2%	337,991	15,497	4.6%
Government	537,901	30,963	5.8%	6.1%	3.8%	540,985	29,547	5.5%
Healthcare and Social Assistance	560,904	30,100	5.4%	5.8%	5.4%	550,246	25,823	4.7%
Information	95,692	8,377	8.8%	9.1%	9.6%	98,502	6,696	6.8%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	75,963	158	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	73,744	1,995	2.7%
Manufacturing	389,421	53,255	13.7%	14.8%	13.7%	397,725	43,560	11.0%
Mining	1,896	176	9.3%	5.9%	7.9%	1,876	134	7.1%
Not elsewhere classified	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	58,610	N/A
Other Services, except Public Administration	260,158	17,966	6.9%	6.8%	5.9%	260,198	16,446	6.3%
Professional and Technical Services	421,771	27,294	6.5%	6.5%	5.3%	436,208	24,876	5.7%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	234,259	7,172	3.1%	3.0%	2.7%	226,034	5,857	2.6%
Retail Trade	478,491	50,670	10.6%	10.8%	9.3%	478,276	52,030	10.9%
Transportation and Warehousing	242,215	18,251	7.5%	8.1%	6.9%	244,974	17,032	7.0%
Utilities	11,920	994	8.3%	8.8%	8.1%	12,588	564	4.5%
Wholesale Trade	236,102	11,644	4.9%	5.2%	4.8%	243,840	16,897	6.9%

Source: EMSI Complete Employment -2nd Quarter 2010

The occupations with the highest number of individuals unemployed for May 2010 are reflected in Table 8. Sales and related occupations had the highest number of unemployed individuals (61,713), followed by office and administrative support occupations (57,134) and production occupations (52,181). In terms of unemployment rates, production occupations had a 16.9% unemployment rate followed by construction and extraction occupations at 13.6% and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations at 12.4%.

**Metropolitan Chicago Region
Unemployment by Occupation
May 2010
Table 8**

Description	# Jobs	# Unemployed	% Total Jobs	State %	National %
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	196,034	24,235	12.4%	12.8%	9.5%
Business and financial operations	351,492	23,628	6.7%	6.8%	4.9%
Construction and extraction	200,784	27,369	13.6%	13.8%	20.1%
Education, training, and library	319,836	17,975	5.6%	5.9%	4.9%
Food preparation and serving related	303,419	32,425	10.7%	11.2%	9.7%
Management	363,875	27,518	7.6%	7.0%	6.2%
Office and administrative support	712,594	57,134	8.0%	8.3%	7.3%
Production	309,213	52,181	16.9%	18.0%	13.2%
Sales and related	655,254	61,713	9.4%	9.6%	7.2%
Transportation and material moving	345,105	34,209	9.9%	10.5%	10.1%

Source: EMSI Complete Employment –2nd Quarter 2010

